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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and its own resolutions, particularly resolution 47/118 of 18 December 1992, in which it recognized that there remained in Central America major obstacles to the full exercise of peace, freedom, democracy and development and the need for a global frame of reference that would enable the international community to focus its support on the efforts being made by the Central American Governments and the appropriateness of increasing support by providing resources for the consolidation of the objectives set so that the region's material limitations would not diminish or reverse the progress made,

Recognizing the importance and validity of the commitments assumed by the Central American Presidents in the "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", adopted at the Esquipulas II summit meeting on 7 August 1987, 1/ and the agreements adopted at the subsequent summit meetings, especially the commitments undertaken at the summit meeting in Guatemala on 29 October 1993, which established a framework of priorities for the consolidation of peace and human development in Central America based on democratic participation and the identification of fundamental changes which call for a new strategy reflecting the concept of integrated and sustained human development,

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1/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex. For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085.

Aware of the importance of supporting the efforts of the Central American Presidents for the consolidation of a firm and lasting peace in Central America, and bearing in mind that the Central American Integration System constitutes the institutional framework for subregional integration through which integrated development can be promoted in an effective, orderly and coherent manner,

Convinced of the hopes that inspire the people of Central America to achieve peace, reconciliation, development and social justice, as well as the commitment to settle their differences by means of dialogue, negotiation and respect for the legitimate interests of all States, in accordance with their own decision and their own historical experience while fully respecting the principles of self-determination and non-intervention,

Recognizing the importance of all aspects of the peace-keeping operations that have been carried out in Central America pursuant to the decisions of the Security Council and with the support of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing also the need to preserve and enhance the results obtained by means of new and innovative initiatives,

Reaffirming the belief that there can be no peace in Central America without development or democracy, which are essential for transforming the region and realizing the hope of the Central American peoples and Governments that Central America may become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Emphasizing the urgent need to implement the decisions adopted at the summit meetings of Central American Presidents in order to consolidate peace with human development and social justice,

Stressing the importance of honouring the commitments to accelerate the establishment of a new model of regional security in Central America as outlined in the Tegucigalpa Protocol, which established the Central American Integration System, and bearing in mind the institutional changes that have taken place in the armed forces in Central America,

Noting with concern the recent acts of violence in El Salvador which may, if measures to halt them are not taken, jeopardize the peace process initiated under the 1992 Peace Agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the steps taken by both the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional with the Secretary-General and officials of countries that support the peace process, together with the initial steps taken by the Government of El Salvador and the decision of the Secretary-General to have the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador collaborate with the competent authority to conduct an immediate full investigation of illegal armed groups, in order to identify the perpetrators of acts of violence that could reverse and obstruct the implementation of the Peace Agreements,

Convinced of the importance of achieving a negotiated political solution to the situation in Guatemala and of continuing talks between the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca and the Government of Guatemala in order to

end the internal armed confrontation at the earliest opportunity and to bring about national reconciliation and full respect for human rights, in keeping with the wishes of the Guatemalan people,

Deeply concerned by the political crisis in Guatemala, particularly by the obstacles facing presidential initiatives to restore institutional credibility and strengthen the democratization process,

Bearing in mind the efforts made by the Government of Nicaragua to promote a broad national dialogue as the best way to consolidate peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development in that country,

Welcoming the adoption of its resolution 48/8 of 22 October 1993, entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of war and natural disasters", in which it recognized the exceptional circumstances prevailing in Nicaragua,

Recognizing that the consolidation of peace in Nicaragua is a key factor in the Central American peace process as well as the urgent need for the international community and the United Nations system to continue providing Nicaragua with the support it needs to begin its economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction in order to strengthen democracy and overcome the aftermath of war and recent natural disasters,

Recognizing the valuable and effective contribution of the United Nations and of various government and non-governmental mechanisms to the process of democratization, pacification and development in Central America as well as the importance for the gradual transformation of Central America into a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development of both the political dialogue and the economic cooperation set in motion by the Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the European Community and the Central American countries and the joint initiatives of the industrialized countries (Group of Twenty-four) and the group of cooperating countries (Group of Three) in Latin America through the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America,

Bearing in mind that the process established by the International Conference on Central American Refugees will be completed in May 1994 and that the United Nations Development Programme will assume the functions of lead agency in completing unfinished programmes, and that the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, through which both the United Nations system and the international community, and especially the cooperating countries, have supported the Central American peace process, will also end,

Noting with concern that events have occurred in Central America that may hinder the consolidation of a firm and lasting peace and have revealed the fragility of the regional peace process,

Aware that Central America is facing a difficult transition period requiring every effort of Governments and the various sectors of the Central American countries, as well as support from the international community in overcoming the underlying structural causes of the crisis in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 11 November 1993 on the situation in Central America 2/ and of the fact that there can be no peace programme without a development programme,

Bearing in mind the initiative of the Central American Presidents to convene an international conference on peace and development in Central America, contained in the Declaration adopted at the fourteenth summit meeting held in Guatemala in October 1993,

1. Commends the efforts of the Central American Governments to consolidate peace by implementing the agreements adopted at summit meetings since 1987, urges them to continue with their efforts to consolidate a firm and lasting peace in Central America and requests the Secretary-General to continue to afford the fullest possible support for the initiatives and efforts of the Central American Governments;

2. Supports the decision of the Central American Governments to declare Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, as set out in the Tegucigalpa Protocol, and encourages the initiatives of the Central American countries to consolidate Governments which base their development on democracy, peace, cooperation and strict respect for human rights;

3. Takes note of the Declaration adopted by the Central American Presidents at their fourteenth summit meeting which states that Central America has a historic opportunity to link a peace programme to an agenda for development, making it possible for the region to become, with the support of the international community, a model for the settlement of disputes that can lead to a consolidation of peace and democracy through integrated development;

4. Welcomes the holding of an international technical meeting on Central America held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 November 1993 with the participation of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America, cooperating countries and international organizations and sponsored also by the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Welcomes with satisfaction the efforts of the Central American countries to promote economic growth within a context of human development as well as the progress achieved in strengthening democracy in the region, as amply demonstrated by the forthcoming elections to be held shortly in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama;

6. Emphasizes the functioning of the Central American Integration System since 1 February 1993 and the registry of the Tegucigalpa Protocol with the United Nations Secretariat, expresses its full support for the efforts made by the Central American countries to stimulate and broaden the integration process in the context of the Central American Integration System and calls on Member States and international organizations to provide effective cooperation to the Central American countries so that they can promote and strengthen sustained subregional integration and achieve their fundamental goal;

2/ A/48/586.

7. Notes with interest the proposals to establish a new model of regional security based on a reasonable balance of forces, a strengthening of civilian authority, the eradication of extreme poverty, the promotion of sustained development, protection of the environment and the elimination of violence, corruption, terrorism and trafficking in drugs and weapons;

8. Calls upon the international community and the United Nations system to provide all possible technical and financial support for the professionalization of the police forces of the Central American countries in order to safeguard democratic institutions;

9. Reiterates its appreciation for the effective and timely participation of the Secretary-General and his representatives and extends its support so that they can continue to take all necessary steps to contribute to the successful implementation of all the Peace Agreements in El Salvador, including efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for the reconstruction and development of the country, which are indispensable to the consolidation of peace and democracy there;

10. Reiterates its appreciation also to the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela, which make up the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General, as well as to the Government of the United States of America and other interested Governments, for their constant support and contribution to the efforts to implement the Peace Agreements, and urges them to continue to support them until the full implementation of these Agreements, which reflect the will and aspirations of the Salvadorian people, is brought about;

11. Welcomes with satisfaction the Agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional concerning the need to accelerate the implementation of the Peace Agreements and urges all political forces to cooperate to this end with a view to surmounting all obstacles, and welcomes the holding of free, fair and representative elections in March 1994 as an essential element of the peace process;

12. Expresses the hope that the peace plan proposed by the President of Guatemala will promote a resumption of negotiations with a view to achieving the priority objectives of peace and national reconciliation as essential elements in the consolidation of democracy and development;

13. Reiterates the importance of stepping up the negotiating process between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca and welcomes the continued support by the international community, and especially the Group of Friends, as well as of the Secretary-General and his Representative, and urges them to continue to provide the necessary assistance so that the people of Guatemala may soon realize their hopes for peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development;

14. Appeals to all political groups in Nicaragua to pursue, by means of the national dialogue initiated by the Government, their efforts to conclude agreements for the consolidation of democracy, reconstruction and national reconciliation;

15. Supports the efforts that the Government of Nicaragua is making to consolidate peace and endorses the provision concerning exceptional circumstances so that the international community and funding agencies will provide their support for rehabilitation, economic and social reconstruction and the strengthening of reconciliation and democracy in that country;

16. Welcomes with interest the initiative by the Government of Nicaragua to establish an active group of friendly countries to play a particularly important role in supporting and monitoring the democratic process and economic recovery in that country, and requests the Secretary-General to give his full support to that initiative;

17. Stresses the importance that the continuity and outcome of the political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and its member States, the group of cooperating countries, as well as the initiative of the industrialized countries (Group of Twenty-four), through the Partnership for Democracy and Development in Central America, have for the efforts of the Central American countries to achieve peace and to consolidate democracy and economic development;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Central American countries with all possible support for the consolidation of peace in the region;

19. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system, and especially the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies, to provide the necessary resources for the establishment of an updated, new regional programme through arrangements to be defined jointly by the Central American countries and the cooperation community as part of a new development strategy, given the need to anticipate the eventual drying up of resources from the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America and the need to prevent any reversal of the achievements in Central America thus far and consolidate peace in the region through comprehensive and sustained development;

20. Recognizes the importance of the programmes undertaken in the context of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America to strengthen democratic institutions and modernize State infrastructure, telecommunications, agricultural development, environmental protection and human development;

21. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for carrying out her mandate under the International Conference on Central American Refugees and its support for the United Nations Development Programme as it completes the unfinished programmes in the context of integrated and sustained development for the human face;

22. Notes with interest the proposal to convene an international conference for peace and development in Central America, the primary objectives of which would be to assess the status of the peace process, cooperation and technical assistance needs and the financing required to make the region into one of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

23. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development";

24. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.